

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 24, 2003, the Advisory Action of May 15, 2003, the Advisory Action of July 8, 2003 and the Advisory Action of October 2, 2003 have been received and their contents carefully reviewed. Claims 12 - 16 have been canceled. These amendments have been made solely to expedite prosecution of the application and are not intended to be an endorsement of the rejections. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the same or similar claims in subsequent applications. Claims 5 - 19 and 24 - 31 are currently pending in the application. Once again, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the examiner's statement that claims 17 - 19 and 24 - 31 are allowed.

Further to the telephone conversation between the examiner and Applicants' representative on October 16, 2003, the present application is in condition for allowance except that claims 12 - 16 have not been formally canceled. By way of this reply, these claims are hereby canceled.

As noted in the most recent Advisory Action, all of the remaining claims are allowed. Applicants respectfully request that the examiner issue a Notice of Allowance for all of the presently pending claims at the earliest possible time.

If the examiner has any questions regarding the presently pending claims which could be easily resolved by a telephone conference, the examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' representative at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Laub, et al.
Applicants

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